Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 06529 091737Z ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /123 W

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R 091655Z SEP 77 FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3616

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PN, IATTC

SUBJECT: PROPOSED TRAVEL OF COMMERCE DEPARTMENT FISHERIES EXPERT

REF: (A) STATE 212968; (B) PANAMA 5972

1. EMBASSY OFFICER ATTENDED A MEETING AT THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE ARRANGED FOR THE DISCUSSION OF NEW U.S. REGULATIONS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT. PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED WILLIAM P. JENSEN, JR. OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND VARIOUS OFFICIALS OF GOP MARINE RESOURCES DEPARTMENT.

2. GOP OFFICIALS SEEMED VERY COOPERATIVE AND WILLING TO MEET U.S. REGULATIONS IN REGARD TO THE NEW TUNA FISHING TECHNIQUES UNDER THE ACT. THEY INDICATED THAT A REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE PANAMANIAN TUNA FLEET WAS IN THE FINAL STAGES OF PREPARATION, AND THAT IT SHOULD BE READY FOR SUBMISSION TO COMMERCE WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. GOP ANTICIPATES NO PROBLEMS WITH THE NEW REGULATIONS AND HOPES THAT PANAMA WILL BE CLEARED BY COMMERCE BEFORE THE OCTOBER 1 DEADLINE FOR THE EMBARGO OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 PANAMA 06529 091737Z

TUNA IMPORTS INTO THE U.S.

3. EMBASSY OFFICER BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF THE UP-COMING MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION IN SAN JOSE. GOP OFFICIALS CLAIMED THAT THEY HAD YET TO RECEIVE AN AGENDA AND THAT THEY HAD NOT EVEN MET TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE GOP POSITIONS AT THE IATTC CONFERENCE. THEY DID GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT, AT THIS TIME, GOP THOUGHT THAT ANY CHANGES TO BE MADE WOULD BE WITHIN THE EXISTING FRAMEWORK OF IATTC. THE OFFICIALS SAID THAT A POSSIBLE QUOTA SYSTEM FOR TUNA CATCH AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE 200-MILE LIMIT WERE LIKELY TO BE THE MAJOR PROBLEMS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING. NOTHING CONCRETE, HOWEVER, ON GOP POSITIONS COULD BE ELICITED.

4. GOP FISHERIES OFFICIALS WERE NOT EVEN SURE AS TO WHO WOULD BE IN PANAMA'S DELEGATION TO SAN JOSE. AT THIS POINT, ARQUIMEDES FRANQUESA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE MARINE RESOURCES DEPARTMENT AND JOSE MARIA CABRERA, LEGAL ADVISOR, ARE THE ONLY CONFIRMED PARTICIPANTS. DR. CARLOS ARELLANO, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF MARINE RESOURCES, WILL POSSIBLY ATTEND FOR AN UNSPECIFIED PORTION OF THE CONFERENCE. OTHERS WILL APPARENTLY BE DECIDED UPON AT A LATER DATE.

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TAGS: EFIS, OTRA, PN, US, IATTC

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